

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 09182 031717Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 AGRE-00 USIE-00 AID-05 AF-10 ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5061

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, EFIN, OCON

SUBJECT: IFAD SITE AND RATIFICATION

STATE 126086

1. U.S. DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO, WHO WAS INVOLVED WITH VISIT OF CONGRESSMAN DAONALD FRASER, HAD SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR AL-SUDEARY (SAUDI ARABIA), CHAIRMAN OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTRUAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD) JUNE 3 ON QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL. AL-SUDEARY HAD NOT BEEN AVAILABLE ON JUNE 2 BECAUSE HIS WIFE RETURNED THAT DAY FROM MEDICAL TREATMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.

2. AL-SUDEARY SAYS HE HAS NO DOUBTS ABOUT THE DEFERRAL OF THE ISSUE OF THE PERMANENT SITE OF IFAD, ALTHOUGH HE POINTED OUT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE IRANIAN VIEWPOINT THAN HE IS. HE DOES NOT CONSIDER THE OTHER CANDIDACIES FOR THE PERMANENT SITE--PANAMA, GABON, POSSIBLY SRI LANKA, AND ITALY--TO REQUIRE ANY IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION. HE BELIEVES THE STUDY COMMITTEE PROPOSAL WILL HOLD THE ISSUE OF THE PERMANENT SITE IN ABEYANCE.

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PAGE 02 ROME 09182 031717Z

3. AL-SUDEARY IS HIGHLY OPTIMISTIC OF ACHIEVING IN SHORT ORDER THE NECESSARY RATIFICATIONS TO PUT THE FUND INTO OPERATION. HE SAYS SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD BE ABLE TO RATIFY IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS, IRAQ AND KUWAIT, IN TWO OR THREE WEEKS, AND VENEZUELA SOON. LIBYA, HE SAYS, HAS ALREADY RATIFIED. AL-SUDEARY REPEATS HIS RECOMMENDATION THAT THE UNITED STATES

GO AHEAD AND RATIFY TO ENCOURAGE THE OTHERS.

4. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION THE IRANIAN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE SAID IRANIAN RATIFICATION SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY. HE URGED, AS HAS AMBASSADOR AL-SUDEARY THAT WE NOT WAIT FOR BLOC ACTION. HE AND AMBASSADOR AL-SUDEARY RECENTLY HAVE URGED THAT THE UNITED STATES, IRAN, AND SAUDI ARABIA TAKE THE LEAD, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE ACTION OF THE REST OF THEIR BLOCS.

5. AL-SUDEARY IS SENDING TODAY, FRIDAY, JUNE 3, A TELEGRAM TO ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES URGING RATIFICATION. TARGET DATE IN HIS OPINION IS BUILT INTO AGENDA OF FIFTH PREPARATORY COMMISSION MEETING OF JULY 11-15, IN WHICH FINAL AGENDA ITEM IS DISCUSSION OF CONVENING OF GOVERNING COUNCIL. HE IS TALKING OF OCTOBER AS THE DATE FOR CONVENING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL RATHER THAN SEPTEMBER, BECAUSE AS WE UNDERSTAND IT MANY GOVERNMENTS DO NOT BELIEVE THEY WILL BE PREPARED FOR THE IFAD GOVERNING COUNCIL SO SHORTLY AFTER THE AUGUST VACATIONS.

6. AL-SUDEARY WILL BE AWAY FROM ROME NEXT WEEK VISITING ALGERIA (EXACT SCHEDULE NOT YET SET) AND PROBABLY LIBYA. HE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY STATEMENT ON THE TIMING OF U.S. RATIFICATION THAT COULD BE GIVEN HIM TO USE AS A TALKING POINT WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. GARDNER

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